

NEWSLETTER 31 January 2021

Dates for your Diary

FEB	Wed	2	Foundation Day off	Thu	3	Italian/Music
	Fri	4	Swimming	Tue	8	Cooking (Grade 5/6)
	Wed	9	Foundation Day Off	Wed	9	Library
	Thu	10	Italian/Music	Fri	11	NO Swimming
	Wed	16	Foundation Day Off	Thu	17	Italian/Music
	Fri	18	Swimming	Tue	22	Cooking
	Wed	23	Foundation Day Off	Wed	23	Library
	Thu	24	Italian/Music	Fri	25	Swimming

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another year - one that hopefully won't be anywhere near as unsettled as last year.

We have many great things happening here this year - the staff were busy on Friday planning our themes, camps (fingers crossed!), curriculum, and much more. In general, another busy, but exciting, year.

Welcome

Firstly I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Foundation students. Starting school for the very first time we have:

Kara Barr
Sophie Clancy
Orlando Orr
Doogal Pollard



We look forward to continuing a long lasting relationship with them, their family and all the Greta Valley Primary School community.

Staffing

We're all back and refreshed and ready to go!!!!

We welcome Joseph Chatwin who will be teaching full time - team teaching with myself in the Grade 3-6 class. Our 2022 staff is as follows:

Foundation/1/2 - Ms Lisa Buckley
(Monday)
Foundation/1/2 - Mrs Natalie Sgarioto
(Tuesday - Friday)
Grade 3-6 - Joseph Chatwin & Howard
Gibson
Music - Ms Leonie Brien
Italian - Ms Peg Halbwidl
Art - Ms Sandra Moore
Library - Mr Anthony Lawler
Cooking - Ms Rachel Hogan
Business Manager/Education Support -
Tanya Boyle
OSHC - Anna Stevenson

The Library van will continue to service us fortnightly on a Wednesday and the Art Van will visit us every second Monday. Italian and Music are weekly on Thursday's. The Grade 5/6 children will go cooking fortnightly to Edi Upper Primary School commencing Tuesday, 8 February. Keep an eye on the calendar at the top of each newsletter to see what is happening.

Thank you

Thank you to Caz Dinning who looked after our chooks over the holidays - I hope they behaved themselves!!!!

Thank you also to the Cunneen, Flanigan, Murphy, Nicholls, Woods and Shepherd families who assisted in keeping our gardens and lawns watered over the holidays.

All your efforts are much appreciated.

Code Red Procedures

With the bushfire season well and truly upon us, this is a timely reminder to you all - and an introduction for our new families - to our procedures on days that are declared as Code Red. Our school is on the Bushfire At Risk (BAR) register and as such on days of Code Red there will be **NO** school operating. Nobody is allowed to be on the premises on these days. Please take

the time to read through the attached flyer which gives more detail and if you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Bus Timetable

At the end of last year everyone should have received a bus timetable for this year. If you have misplaced it, please let me know so I can get you another copy.

A reminder that unless we have been notified of any alteration to your child's normal designated bus stop, then that is where they will be dropped off. We cannot rely on your child telling us that 'mum or dad is picking them up' or 'mum said I'm to go to my friend's house'. Please either send a note or ring us.

Covid Restrictions

We are still having to adhere to a number of restrictions, however we are slowing getting back to normal which is great. Camps and excursions are back on under strict guidelines - particularly in the first four weeks of this term and then the Education Department will reassess the situation. Our Cluster cooking program is operating, however we are unable to have parent volunteers join us for this sorry for the first four weeks of this term. Hopefully we will be able to invite you back after that.

Parents are allowed on site for the purpose of dropping off/picking up children. Only parents who are fully vaccinated are allowed to enter school buildings. If you are coming for any other purpose you will need to sign in with the QR code at the front door.

As mentioned earlier, we are having to adhere to a number of restrictions, particularly for the first four weeks, so we won't be having our usual 'Welcome' BBQ just yet. I will let you know once we are able to proceed with this.

RAT Test - All our students are encouraged to undertake a RAT test twice weekly. Information about this was emailed to you last week. Parents are asked to collect the testing kit from the office - if it hasn't been collected by Tuesday we will be sending them home with your child. Instructions on what you need to do should your child receive a positive test were in last weeks emails - but certainly you need to let us know and not send your child to school.

Can I *suggest* that as a community we unite and undertake the test on Wednesday and Friday mornings. This will allow us to 'encourage' our students around these days.

Masks - it is an expectation that all students in Grade 3-6 will wear a mask whilst inside. These are available at school.

Camps - we have two camps planned for this term that we are unfortunately still unsure if they will go ahead. The first is our cluster Sailing Camp to Rye for our Grade 6's and then some Grade 5/6 students are meant to be going to Somers for 10 days. Fingers crossed these will be able to go ahead.

Foundation Information Evening

We will be running an information evening for all our Foundation parents on Tuesday, 15 February commencing at 7pm here at the school. The key focus of the evening will be to inform you particularly about our teaching of literacy and numeracy, and how you can assist at home, along with some other general information about your child's first year of school. This is a great opportunity for you to learn some valuable information, particularly as for some of you this is your first child at school. Please make every effort to attend.

Hats

A reminder that all children are required to wear a hat while they are outside during Term 1. Please ensure that your child has a hat with his/her name in it.

Medication Plans & Student Details

As you will appreciate, we need to be kept up to date with your relevant details that apply to us. As such, shortly we will be sending home a copy of all the records that we currently hold on your children.

Please be sure to check all details - medication, emergency contacts, telephone numbers, etc. We would appreciate all the details being returned to us by no later than Friday, 11 February. Please sign and date each page.

New parents to Greta Valley will not receive this data as you have all just completed an enrolment form - hopefully your details won't have changed in this short time!

Term Dates

For you diary/calendar the school term dates for 2022 are:

Term 1 - 28 January to 8 April

Term 2 - 26 April to 24 June

Term 3 - 11 July to 16 September

Term 4 - 3 October to 20 December

Applicable Public Holidays are:

Labour Day 14 March

Anzac Day 25 April

Queen's Birthday 13 June

Melbourne Cup 1 November

School Council

I will be sending home shortly information regarding the election of Councillors for our School Council. Please read this information carefully when it arrives and if you have any queries feel free to contact me. We have six parents on our School Council - all elected to serve for two years.

Elections are held at the start of each year and we have **one** positions vacant this round, currently held by Janelle Osborne who is eligible for re-election.

Council meetings are held twice per term. School Councils play an important role in the operation of a school. More information soon!

Foundation Day Off

A reminder to our Foundation parents that in accordance with Education Department policy our Foundation students are allowed one day off each week for February. We recommend these children have the Wednesday off, simply to break the week up for them. However the choice is basically yours as you will be the best judge of when your child is getting tired and would benefit from the day at home. These will commence this week through to and inclusive of Wednesday 23 February.

Cooking

As mentioned earlier our Grade 5/6 students will be participating in the Stephanie Alexander cooking program fortnightly commencing Tuesday 8 February. All students will need to bring their own apron – this is part of the COVID restrictions that we are currently adhering to.

Camps, Sport Excursions Funds (CSEF)

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer regarding the CSEF that we encourage all eligible parents to apply for. The funds are allocated to the school and we then use the money to offset your families account in relation to camps and excursion. For example for those families in receipt of CSEF we will use the funds to pay for Term 1's swimming instructors.

Families who are already in receipt of CSEF do not need to reapply – it simply rolls over. For our new families, eligibility

is based on you holding a current means tested Concession Card. If you have one of these please complete the application form and return to us by Friday 11 February. We will need to take a copy of your Concession Card. Any queries please feel free to contact me.

Privacy Information

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take the time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website or if you would like a copy please contact me.

Swimming

Our swimming program will be conducted this Term commencing next this Friday 4 February and will run weekly until 1 April. Please note that there is NO swimming on 11 April as the pool is unavailable that date. These lessons are conducted at the Benalla Aquatic Centre and students are bussed there. Families will be invoiced for this program once we have completed the program.

Permission Forms

We have the ability to have just the one permission form signed by you that will cover all local excursions – e.g. swimming to Benalla, excursions to Wangaratta, other King Valley schools and cooking.

We will still notify you when we will be going on an excursion – we just won't need a permission form each time.

Attached is the 2022 LOCAL EXCURSIONS permission form which we will need returned by Wednesday, 2 February so we can go swimming this week. Any queries please feel free to contact me.

Working Bee

The grounds are looking really good presently, but we will have a quick working bee on Sunday, 27 February commencing at 9am. Jobs to be undertaken including pressure washing

the outside walls and rubber surfacing, cleaning out drains and pruning some trees. If you have any equipment to undertake any of these jobs please bring it along.

Thank you

Howard Gibson
Principal



KARA, SOPHIE, DOOGAL, ORLANDO
WELCOME TO GRETA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL!